

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write as strong supporters of your Administration's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the 2014 Expanded DACA (DACA+) program. These actions have given over 700,000 individuals, many of whom have spent almost their entire lives in the United States, a reprieve from the fear of deportation. We believe that students who qualify for DACA should have the same access to education services and benefits as full U.S. citizens, and in particular, access to Federal TRIO Programs that support college access and success for disadvantaged students. TRIO has provided life-changing services for many students, but because of a regulatory requirement finalized in 2010, TRIO centers are limited to working with students who are U.S. citizens. The citizenship requirement is solely the result of Department of Education regulations and is not a requirement in statute. We write to encourage you to take swift action, through whatever means available to you, to eliminate the citizenship requirement for TRIO and expand the program to beneficiaries of DACA.

The first Federal TRIO Program, Upward Bound, was established in the Educational Opportunity Act of 1964, and was created to remove barriers to college access and completion for disadvantaged youth. Since then, TRIO has grown to eight programs serving nearly 800,000 students in 2,800 programs across the country. TRIO Programs begin as early as middle school and continue through college, serving first-generation students from families at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line. They've opened doors for many students of color, first-generations students, and students from low-income families by providing mentoring, academic and financial counseling, and tutoring, and they create an invaluable community of support for their participants.

Today, almost half of states, through legislation or decisions by the state Board of Regents, allow undocumented students to receive in-state tuition rates. The opportunity to receive in-state tuition rates puts college within reach for many undocumented students. On average, in-state tuition rates are several thousand dollars less than out-of-state tuition rates, and as a result of these savings, many colleges and universities have reported increases in the number of undocumented students enrolling in postsecondary education.

Too often, students who are DACA-eligible are turned away from participation in TRIO because of their immigration status. Many undocumented students who attend college or hope to attend college would benefit from participation in Federal TRIO Programs. In 2010, however, the Department of Education finalized regulations under Title IV of the Higher Education Act that established a citizenship requirement for students participating in TRIO, a restriction above and


beyond the statutory requirement. Federal TRIO Programs across the country, including those in our congressional districts, regularly turn away students because of their immigration status. Even though many students now have access to in-state tuition rates, they are unable to participate in the programs designed to enable and encourage their success.

As supporters of your Administration's actions on immigration, we respectfully request that you give DACA-eligible students the right to participate in Federal TRIO Programs. Deserving students have been denied access to TRIO for far too long. This corresponding change to adapt TRIO to DACA would allow many students already eligible for in-state tuition rates to also receive the support that encourages their success to and through college.

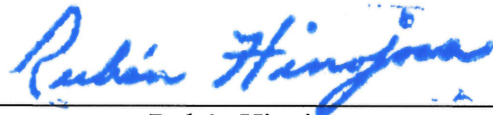
It is well within your power to change the interpretation of or overturn the 2010 regulation, and we encourage you to do so swiftly and immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you as your Administration implements this important change.

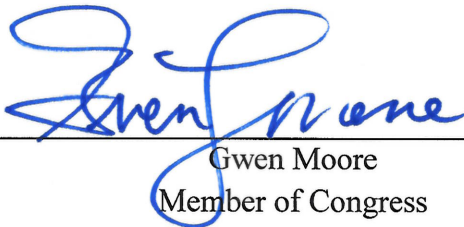
Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



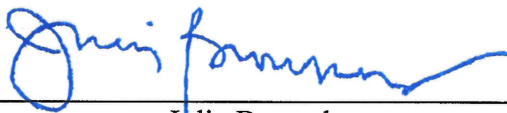
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



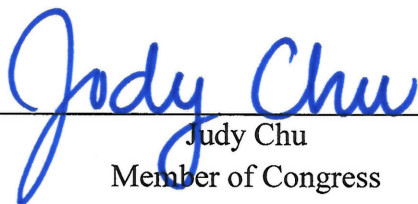
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



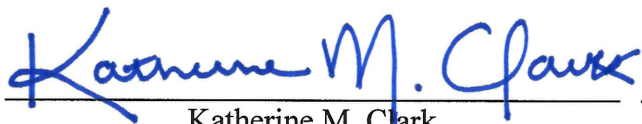
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



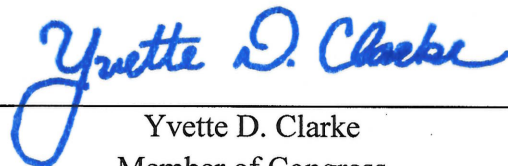
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



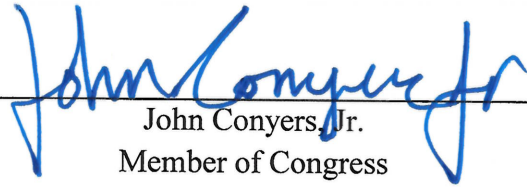
Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



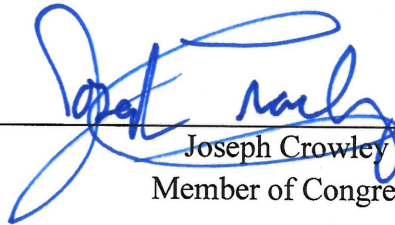
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



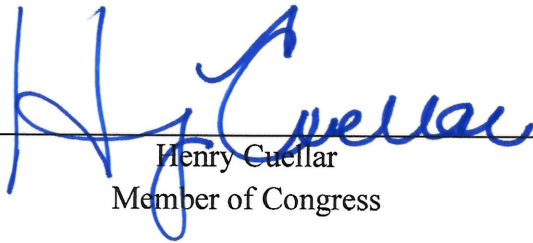
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



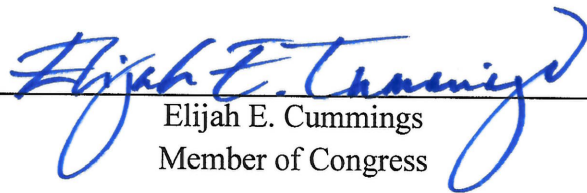
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



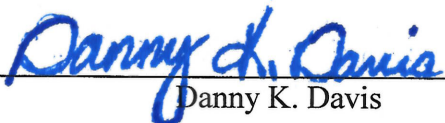
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



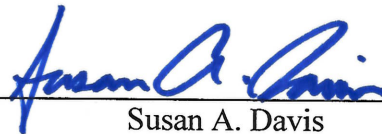
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



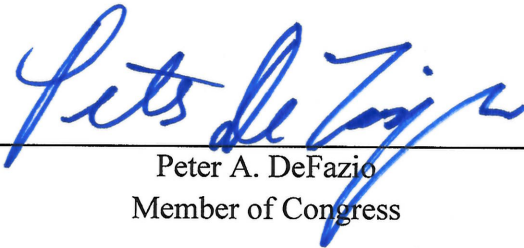
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



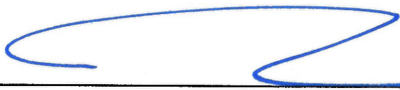
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



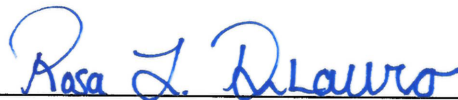
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



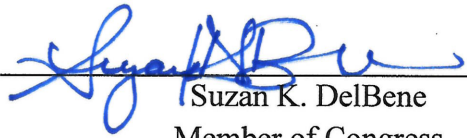
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



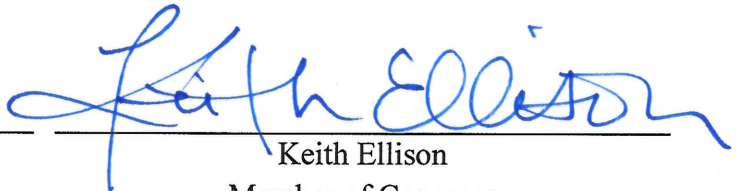
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



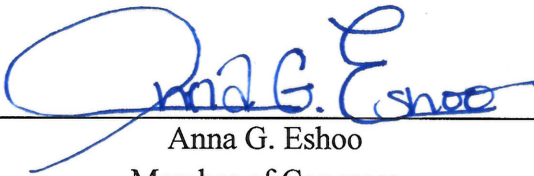
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



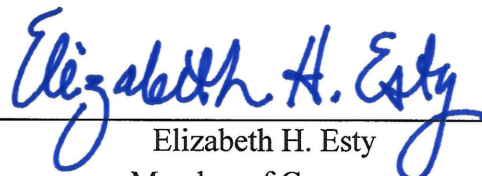
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



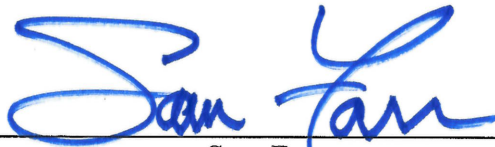
Keith Ellison
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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Sam Farr
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



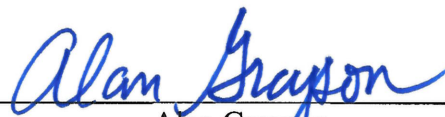
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



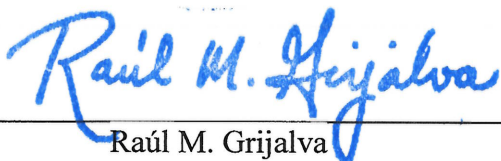
Marcia L. Fudge
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Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



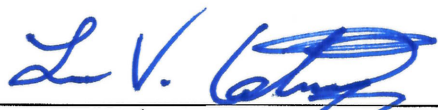
Alan Grayson
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Gene Green
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Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



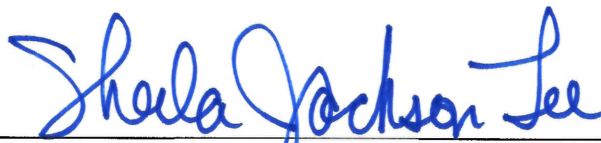
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



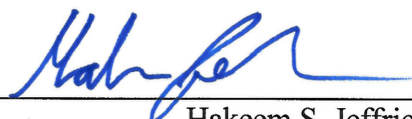
Michael M. Honda
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Jared Huffman
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Hakeem S. Jeffries
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Marcy Kaptur
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William R. Keating
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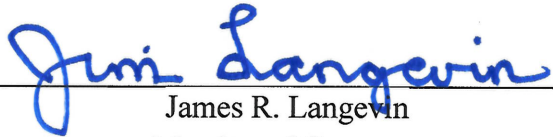
Derek Kilmer
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Ron Kind
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Ann Kirkpatrick
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



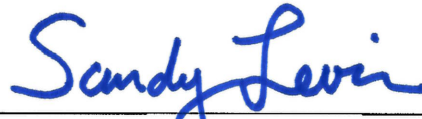
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



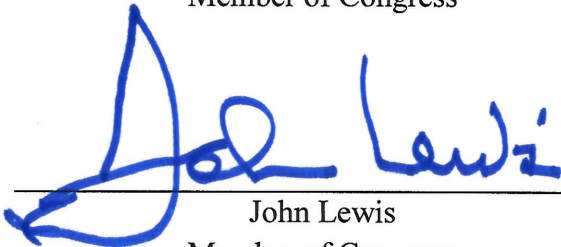
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



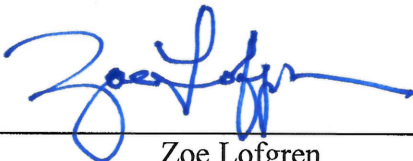
Sander M. Levin
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John Lewis
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Ted Lieu
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Zoe Lofgren
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Alan S. Lowenthal
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Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



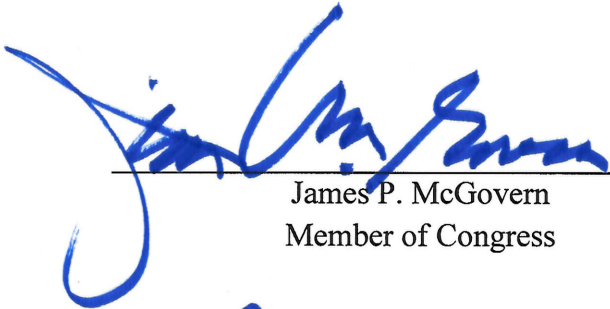
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



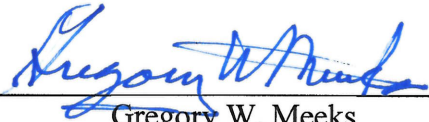
Doris Matsui
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Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



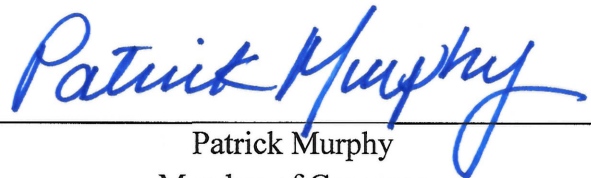
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



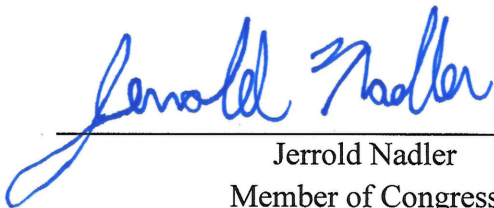
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



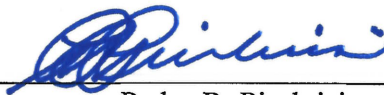
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



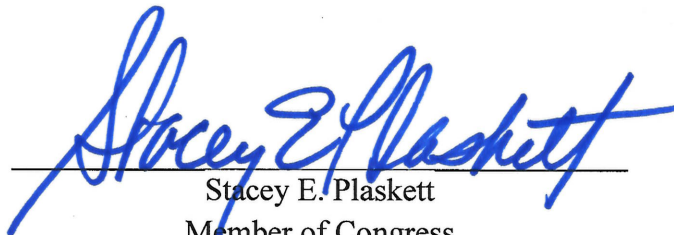
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



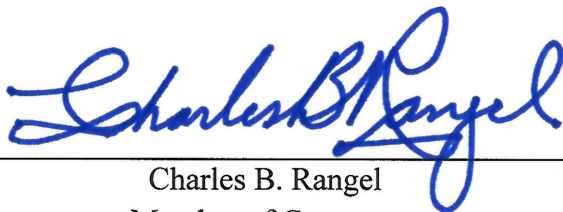
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



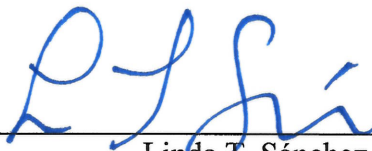
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



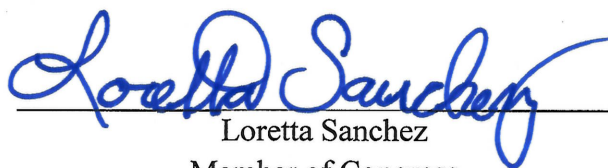
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



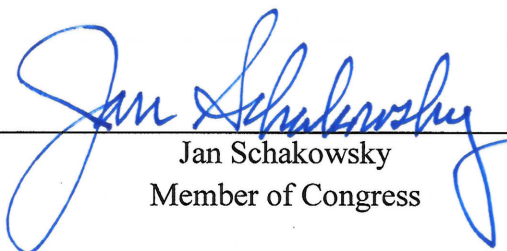
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



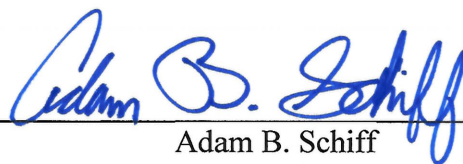
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



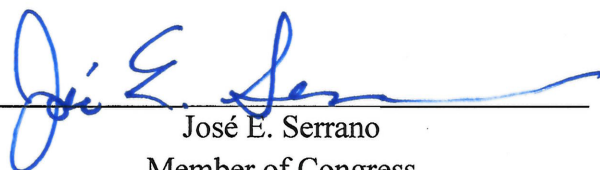
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



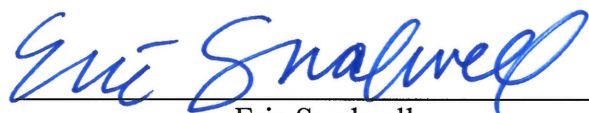
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



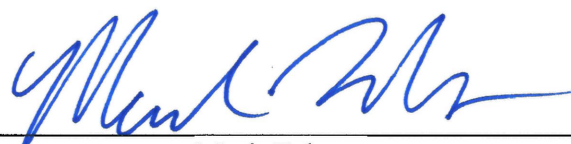
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



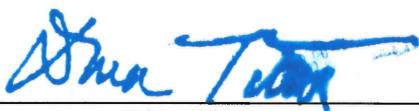
Adam Smith
Member of Congress




Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



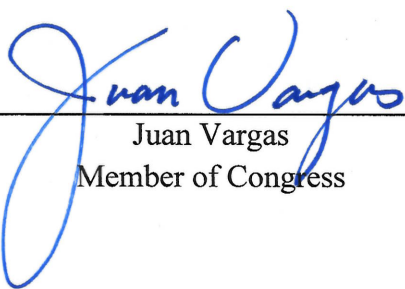
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



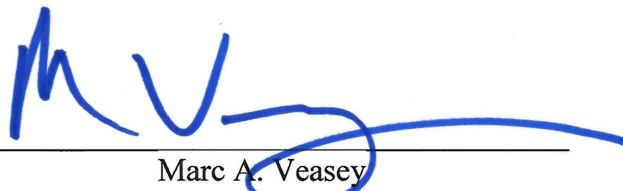
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



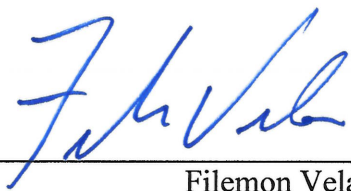
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



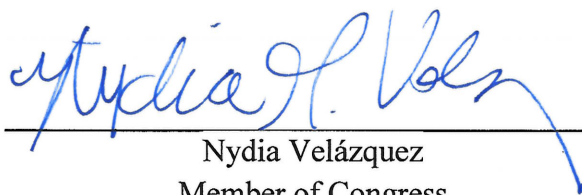
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



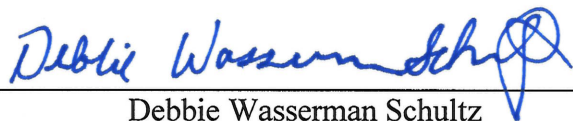
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



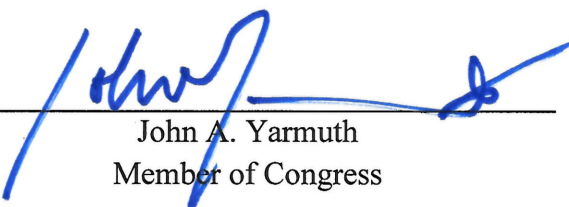
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Cc: Dr. John King, Secretary of Education